

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: FISHING: LIMITATIONS ON FOREIGN PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 265945; STATE A-7043 SEPT. 10, 1974.

1. FRENCH LAW PROHIBITS FISHING BY FOREIGNERS IN
TWELVE MILE TERRITORIAL WATERS, WITH EXCEPTIONS MADE
FOR NATIONALS OF COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY SPAIN) WITH
WHICH GOF HAS NEGOTIATED SPECIAL AGREEMENTS.

2. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN FRENCH FISHING FLEET ALSO
LIMITED BY REQUIREMENT THAT FRENCH-REGISTERED SHIPS BE
AT LEAST 50 PERCENT FRENCH-OWNED, OR BE ENTIRELY OWNED

BY FRENCH-REGISTERED COMPANY WITH MAJORITY OF GOVERNING
BOARD BEING FRENCH. UNDER EC RULES OF FREE ESTABLISH-
MENT, GOF THEORETICALLY ALLOWS SAME PRIVILEGES TO OTHER
EC COUNTRY NATIONALS BUT MERCHANT MARINE OFFICIALS WITH
WHOM WE HAVE TALKED BELIEVE NO CASES HAVE ARISEN OF
OTHER EC COUNTRY INVESTMENT(POOR NATURE OF FRENCH
COASTAL FISHERIES GIVE LITTLE INCENTIVE IN ANY EVENT
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TO FOREIGN ENTRY, AND GOF SHIPBUILDING SUBSIDIES IN

GENERAL ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER NATIONALS). OWNERS OF FRENCH-REGISTERED VESSELS MUST MOREOVER JOIN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH IS IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH GOF AUTHORITIES AND OFTEN SERVES AS SEMI-OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY VIS-A-VIS ITS MEMBERS.

3. CREWS FOR FRENCH-REGISTERED SHIPS MUST ALSO BE FRENCH OR EC NATIONALS, OR FROM COUNTRY WHICH HAS BILATERAL MARITIME AND FISHING AGREEMENTS WITH FRANCE (MOSTLY FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES). FINALLY, MARKET CONDITIONS IN FRANCE FAVOR FRENCH FISHERMAN THROUGH MONOPOLY GIVEN TO PROFESSIONAL SYNDICATES.

4. THESE RESTRICTIONS REFLECT LONG-STANDING GOF VIEW THAT FISHING INDUSTRY MUST BE PROTECTED AND SUPPORTED AS FORM OF ASSISTANCE TO UNDERDEVELOPED REGIONS (E.G. BRITTANY) IN WHICH MOST OF INDUSTRY IS BASED).
STONE

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